

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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47

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 OMB-01 SAM-01 IO-14

SAB-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /095 W
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O 241800Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2524 IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 2831

JERUSALEM FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJ: ISRAELI DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION

REF: TEL AVIV 2799

1. SITUATION REMAINS BASICALLY AS DESCRIBED REFTEL. THE THREE PARTIES TO BECOME COALITION PARTNERS SIGNED AGREEMENT MAY 23 TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT, BUT RABIN IS STILL IN THROES OF PUTTING TOGETHER HIS CABINET. HE IS TODAY OBTAINING BRIEF EXTENSION FROM PRESIDENT KATZIR BEYOND DEADLINE OF TODAY'S DATE TO FINISH PROCESS OF CABINET SELECTION. AS OF NOW, SCHEDULED MAY 24 JOINT MEETING OF LABOR ALIGNMENT KNESSET FACTION AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN MOVED TO EVENING OF MAY 25. SINCE MAY 27 IS RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY, KNESSET SESSION FOR VOTE OF CONFIDENCE CANNOT BE HELD EARLIER THAN MAY 28.

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2. COALITION AGREEMENT KEEPS DOOR OPEN FOR POSSIBLE NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY PARTICIPATION AT LATER DATE. IN ADDITION TO KEEPING ITS MINISTRIES OPEN, AGREEMENT MAINTAINS UNDERSTANDING REACHED IN MARCH ON RELIGIOUS ISSUES, INCLUDING PROVISION ESTABLISHING MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON WHO IS A JEW QUESTION, AND IN EVEN NRP JOINS COALITION, FREEDOM OF VOTE FOR NRP IF ANOTHER COALITION PARTNER PROPOSES NEW LEGISLATION ON LAW OF RETURN. MOREOVER, NEW AGREEMENT CARRIES OVER PROVISION THAT NEW ELECTION WILL BE HELD BEFORE GOI CONCLUDES ANY AGREEMENT WITH JORDAN INVOLVING TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS ON WEST BANK IF SO REQUESTED BY ONE OF THE COALITION PARTNERS.

3. LABOR PARTY FACTIONALISM IS ROOT OF CURRENT DIFFICULTIES IMPEDING DORMATION OF CABINET. RABIN HAS BEEN UNABLE TO SATISFY COMPETING CLAIMS FOR ALLOCATION OF MINISTRIES, ALTHOUGH FACTIONS PUBLICLY CLAIM THAT SUCH CONSIDERATIONS ARE NOT INVOLVED. EXTENSIVE SPECULATION IN MEDIA LEAVES IT UNCLEAR HOW RABIN INTENDS TO RESOLVE HIS DILEMMA. RAFI FACTION MAY 23 SELECTED PERES AND GAD YAACOB I AS ITS TWO CANDIDATES FOR MINISTERIAL POSTS, BUT AHDUT AVODAH FACTION IN SEPARATE MEETING DEFERRED ITS SELECTION PENDING OUTCOME OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN RABIN AND ALLON. AT RAFI MEETING, DAYAN SAID THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT NEW GOVERNMENT IN KNESSET VOTE OF CONFIDENCE BUT SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD NEVER SERVE IN SUCH A DOVISH GOVERNMENT. HE ADDED, "IN MY DARKEST DREAMS I NEVER IMAGINED THAT SUCH A COALITION COULD BE BROUGHT INTO EXISTENCE."

4. COALITION NEGOTIATIONS HAVE UNDERSCORED CONTINUING STRENGTH AND DELETERIOUS INFLUENCE OF FACTIONAL GROUPINGS WITHIN LABOR PARTY. RABIN WILL BEGIN HIS TERM AS PRIME MINISTER WITH HANDICAP OF BEING UNABLE TO MAKE CLEARCUT BREAK FROM PATTERN OF DESTRUCTIVE INFIGHTING WHICH HAS PLAGUED LABOR PARTY SINCE ITS FORMATION IN 1968. THUS, HE CONFRONTS TOUGH PROBLEMS NOT ONLY IN INTERNATIONAL FIELD, BUT ALSO IN TAKING COMMAND OF HIS OWN PARTY AND TRYING TO INTRODUCE NEW APPROACH IN ISRAELI POLITICS.

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